

Business Insider

<http://www.businessinsider.com/this-ancient-human-child-shows-signs-of-modern-human-culture-2012-11?op=1#ixzz2T3Rxb0cZ>

Take A Journey To Discover The World's Oldest Child

Randy Astaiza and Jennifer Welsh | Nov. 15, 2012, 4:55 PM

After decades of digging up prehistoric tools, archaeologist Harold Dibble from the University of Pennsylvania uncovered a rare skull in a Moroccan Cave, the find of a lifetime.

As Dribble's team investigated, Naked Science, a documentary program on the National Geographic Channel, followed the team for an episode they called The World's Oldest Child.



Coming into the find, researchers had no idea what species it came from, the age of the bones, or even how old the person was when they died — but they knew the find could be a big hint about how modern humans evolved.

When they found the bones, the skull was crushed into hundreds of pieces, so the team undertook major reconstructive efforts to get to know this ancient human.

Using the quartz in the soil, the researchers found that the skull is between 108,000 and 110,000 years old, from the same era in which modern human culture emerged.

They don't know what species this skull belongs to — many types of ancient humans have evolved and gone extinct over the last four million years.

While they are uncovering the bones, the researchers discover that their find is more than just a skull. There is also a clavicle and parts of a torso, making it the most complete ancient human child ever found in Africa.

The researchers named her Bouchra.

The teeth indicate Bouchra was six years old when she died.

A finalized reconstruction of Bouchra's 100,000 year old face adds one last plot twist: The shape of her forehead reveals that she's actually a he!



Source:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/this-ancient-human-child-shows-signs-of-modern-human-culture-2012-11?op=1#ixzz2T3Rxb0cZ>